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paper on the "Phylogeny and Classification of Reptiles," previously mentioned. During the last two years of his life he was also preparing a paper on new Permian reptiles. It is a matter of the deepest regret to all of Williston's colleagues in paleontology that he did not live to complete his great comparative work on the Reptilia, which would have summed up all his researches and observations and the facts stored in his mind which have never found their way into print.

A few of the more general features of Williston's life-work and character are as follows: He strove arduously through forty years of investigation to discover new material in the field and to widen our basis of facts in several distinct lines of investigation; he preferred to discover new facts rather than to reinterpret older ones or to adjust the interrelations of facts; in general, his material was notably of his own finding. Nevertheless, especially in his late years, he labored very successfully to classify and synthesize his material, and with it that which had been treated by other workers. Here his genial personal character and admirable relations with his colleagues shone forth; he was singularly appreciative of the work of other men and ready to adopt whatever he believed to be solid and enduring in previous attempts at classification. Thus Williston's work stands in contrast with that of Cope and Marsh, whose personal differences of opinion led to the setting up of two entirely distinct systems of classification as well as of nomenclature, irrespective both of priority and of merit. Williston's keen, broad knowledge of human anatomy, of the muscles as well as of the bones, doubtless aided his penetrating insight into the habits of the extinct animals, and while generally conservative and cautious, his phylogenetic studies and suggestions were of high value. His views on taxonomic standards⁶ and on college and high-school education⁷ were, like his views on pa-

leontologic problems, characteristically sober, moderate and well considered, lighted up in their expression with his genial, half-humorous manner. He was ready to confess and appraise defects or faults on his own side, but quick to resent exaggerated accusations and criticisms from the other side.

His friends and colleagues met him last at the Pittsburgh meeting of the Paleontological Society of America, December 30, 1917, and enjoyed a few of his short and characteristically enthusiastic communications and discussions. With Dr. Holland, myself and many other warm friends he stayed the old year out and saw the new year in at the society smoker. He returned home quite suddenly, and this was the last occasion on which we were privileged to enjoy his genial presence, his humorous narratives, and his inspiring influence in paleontology.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
February 21, 1919

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF HEALTH BILL

THE text of the Ministry of Health Bill, presented to the House of Commons on February 17, has since been published. According to *Nature* the bill differs little from the measure originally presented to the last Parliament. That it does differ to some extent, however, particularly in bearing signs of having been worked at and polished, is worthy of mention. The new bill carries the stamp of finality, and suggests that most of the State Departments performing health functions—the Local Government Board, the Board of Education, and the Insurance Commissioners especially—have arrived at arrangements more or less agreeable to all parties. The position as between the two first-named, for example, is shown to be fairly easy. Even as regards the place to be taken by the Insurance Commissioners, there is less reason for dissatisfaction, and concessions no doubt have been made by the various bodies and individuals concerned. Speaking generally, the measure

⁶ What is a Species," *Amer. Nat.*, XLII., 184-94.

⁷ "Has the American College Failed to Fulfill Its Function?" *Proc. Nat. Educ. Assn.* (1909), p. 526.

is a hopeful one, and inspired the feeling that we are well on the way to the establishment of the Ministry. The tone adopted by Dr. Addison is significant of this also, as is the translation of Sir George Newmann to the Local Government Board, and the granting to him of the title of "chief medical officer," with the status of a secretary of the board.

Nature continues: "One part of the bill which has been carried over unaltered from its predecessor is that relating to the appointment of consultative committees, and Dr. Addison, by his utterances, has shown himself to be firmly wedded to this idea, and expectant of results of great value from the work to be done by these bodies. The Consumers' Council at the Ministry of Food, which may be regarded as more or less analogous, though it was occasionally sneered at, must have assisted the food controller considerably. There is no reason to suppose that the Ministry of Health consultative committees will be any less helpful. Indeed, since they are to consist of carefully selected experts on matters having a bearing on national health, they are almost bound to be more valuable. In any event, the consultative committee idea has this to recommend it: that it will popularize health work. The committees will serve as a most effective link between the department doing the work and those for whose benefit the work is done. The department and the workers will be less cloistered; the workers and those who are worked for will be more intimately associated. The public will see and hear of what is being done, and will come to recognize the necessity for assisting in, and taking advantage of, the efforts made. So far there have been remarkably few comments on the bill, but on the whole the reception has been entirely favorable."

THE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

THE College of Fisheries just established by the University of Washington, at Seattle, enjoys the distinction of being the only one in the world outside of Japan. The Imperial Fisheries Institute at Tokio is a government

institution and has been in existence since 1897. It has so conclusively proved its worth that a number of subsidiary schools have been established in the various provinces of Japan.

When the matter of the establishment of a College of Fisheries in this country was first broached by Dr. H. M. Smith, U. S. Commissioner of Fisheries, his attention was called to the fact that Seattle is the only American city within whose corporate limits, or in territory immediately adjacent, can be found in active operation practically every type of plant used in turning the raw fishery material into all forms of manufactured articles both for food and for use in the arts and sciences; fishery operations were carried on even in Seattle harbor; while the great salmon, halibut, cod and herring fleets operating in Alaska waters had their headquarters mainly in the city, outfitting there and bringing back the products for shipment to all parts of the world; also that one of the leading universities of the country was already established there and could take up the work.

The College of Fisheries will offer a four-year course divided into three divisions—Fishing, Technological and Fish Cultural. Students will be given as much practical training as possible in the college, but for certain periods in the last two years of the course will be expected to pursue their studies by work in commercial establishments devoted to the preparation of fishery products, aboard fishing vessels, or at hatcheries.

As the university is a state institution, an important part of the work of the College of Fisheries will be in rendering assistance and advice whenever called upon by the state authorities, and also to aid the commercial fishermen not only of the state but of the nation in solving the many problems which beset them, and to aid in the conservation and perpetuation of our wonderful fishery resources. Research work along the lines of utilization of hitherto neglected species, and of waste products, will be carried on and it is hoped will result in materially increasing the wealth of the state and nation.

The director, Mr. John N. Cobb, who is also